(c) These equipments enhance access control, surveillance, explosive detection capability and augment security architecture at the airports.

Maintenance of Kamakhaya Temple in Assam

†*136. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH: Will the Minister of Culture be pleased to state:

(a) the amount provided by Government during the last three years for preservation and maintenance of Kamakhaya Temple, situated in Assam State:

(b) whether Government have formulated any plan for beautification of the said temple; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (c) The Kamakhya Temple is not a Centrally protected monument. The Ministry of Tourism, Government of India has sanctioned an amount of Rs. 151.27 lakhs in 2003 for provision of infrastructure facilities at Maa Kamakhya Saktipeeth, Nilachal Hills, Guwahati.

The following provisions were made in the sanction:

1. Improvement of Mekhala Ujua Path, providing and fixing of M.S. railing etc.
2. Improvement of side drain and culvert.
3. Toilet and drinking water facilities along Mekhala Ujua Path.

Tourism Industry

*137. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the tourism industry has progressed during the last few years;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) whether it is also a fact that the country could not progress to that desired level due to lack of infrastructure that is required for the growth of tourism industry; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that tourists from abroad are afraid to come to India due to prevailing law and order problems?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) Yes Sir. The foreign tourists arrivals during the years 2003, 2004 and 2005 were 2.73 million, 3.46 million and 3.92 million respectively, registering a growth of 14.3%, 26.8% and 13.2% respectively over the previous year. The foreign exchange earnings from tourism during the years 2003, 2004 and 2005 were US$ 3533 million, US$ 4769 million and US$ 5731 million respectively registering a growth of 20.9%, 35.0% and 20.2% respectively over the previous year.

(b) With India's vast bounties of nature, its great treasures of art, architecture and philosophical thought, its rich cultural heritage, its rural countryside and wildlife, and practices of Yoga, Siddha, etc. spread across different States, there is immense tourism potential in the country, which can be further exploited with better infrastructure development. Ministry of Tourism, accordingly, provides Central Financial Assistance to the States for development of infrastructure in tourist destinations/ circuits. During the 10th Five Year Plan, more than 900 projects have been approved for various States/ UTs and about Rs. 1400 crores sanctioned. Details are at Annexure.

(c) There are no inputs with the Ministry of Tourism that foreign tourists are afraid to come to India due to law and order problems. In fact, there is a regular flow of foreign tourists and a high positive growth in tourist arrivals to India in the recent years. However, in order to ensure safety and security of tourists, the Ministry of Tourism has advised all the State Governments/Union Territories to deploy Tourist Police at important tourist centres. The State Government of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Goa, Kerala, Maharashtra, Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, Jammu and Kashmir, Uttar Pradesh and Delhi have deployed Tourist Police.

Statement

Projects sanctioned by Ministry of Tourism during the 10th Five Year Plan

Sl. No.	State/UT	No. of sanctioned projects	No. of completed projects	No. of dropped projects	No. of ongoing projects	Sanctio-ned amount	Relea-sed amount
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andaman & Nicobar	1	-	-	1	6.25	5.00
2.	Andhra Pradesh	30	14	-	16	6,897.71	5,427.39
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	28	5	-	23	4,670.66	3,618.47
4.	Assam	30	1	-	29	4,187.62	3,420.74
5.	Bihar	24	4	-	20	4,695.15	3,933.70
6.	Chandigarh	8	5	-	3	493.45	401.93
7.	Chhattisgarh	28	3	-	25	4,482.26	3,180.96
8.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	4	2	-	2	37.86	32.38
9.	Daman & Diu	9	2	-	7	581.85	469.01
10.	Delhi	41	18	1	22	4,728.27	4,498.54
11.	Goa	7	5	-	2	157.26	83.26
12.	Gujarat	19	6	-	13	3,612.97	2,524.92
13.	Haryana	39	19	2	18	3,059.26	2,625.36
14.	Himachal Pradesh	47	19	-	28	5,254.19	3,904.21
15.	J & K	34	9	-	25	8,499.22	7,000.63
16.	Jharkhand	9	-	-	9	3,324.09	2,546.96
17.	Karnataka	44	13	-	31	7,955.01	5,519.43
18.	Kerala	43	22		21	9,278.92	7,503.89
19.	Lakshadweep	0	-	-	-	0	0
20.	Madhya Pradesh	52	22	-	30	6,055.87	4,887.70
21.	Maharashtra	41	20	-	21	5,964.08	4,889.13

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
22.	Manipur	7	2	-	5	215.58	186.13
23.	Meghalaya	9	1	3	5	1,130.87	884.31
24.	Mizoram	25	7	-	18	4,068.62	2,543.63
25.	Nagaland	26	4	-	22	5851.16	4,083.74
26.	Orissa	26	7	1	18	4,427.96	3,522.81
27.	Pondicherry	8	2	1	5	1,185.16	948.50
28.	Punjab	16	4	1	11	2,276.35	1,794.12
29.	Rajasthan	44	7	-	37	7,788.94	6,580.32
30.	Sikkim	43	13	1	29	5,011.15	3,723.68
31.	Tamil Nadu	52	19	-	33	8,486.53	6,222.70
32.	Tripura	16	3	-	13	1,406.14	791.25
33.	Uttar Pradesh	37	8	-	29	6,261.18	5,199.93
34.	Uttaranchal	26	6	-	20	5,765.92	4,741.90
35.	West Bengal	31	13	-	18	2,960.91	2,280.40
	TOTAL :	904	285	10	609	140,778.42	109,977.04

Absorption of GTB employees in Oriental Bank of Commerce

*138. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of employees of the Global Trust Bank who have been absorbed in the Oriental Bank of Commerce;

(b) whether these employees have been debarred from the pensionary benefits whereas the employees of Oriental Bank of Commerce who were recruited even after the merger of G.T.B. in O.B.C. are entitled to this facility; and

(c) if so, what are the specific reasons for the discriminatory treatment to them and by when it would be removed?